



Celebrating Marriages

We all know that February 14th is St Valentine's day, but did you know that many churches take the opportunity to celebrate "Marriage Week" around the same time?

We hear all too often about the decline of marriage, and the sad statistics about how many marriages end in divorce these days. At St George's we want to celebrate the fact that the majority of marriages, despite their 'ups and downs,' are still life-long and life enhancing.

So, taking full advantage of the fact that 14th Feb is a Sunday this year, we will be hosting a "Celebration of Christian Marriage" that evening.

At 6:30 pm there will be a service in Church at which any couple attending can take the opportunity to renew their wedding vows. We will do this

altogether, without the embarrassment of standing out at the front like that first time!

Everyone will be welcome at the service, not just married couples—anyone who wants to celebrate the institution of Christian marriage. The order of service will be similar to a wedding, accompanied by familiar wedding hymns and music.

Following the service we will move to the Church Hall for a Wedding Banquet. After tucking in to our three-course meal and drinks we look forward to hearing three short speeches: no, not the



Smiling St George's Lunch Club cooks, Pam Ackford (left) and Jenny Woods after receiving bouquets of orchids from club members for their fine efforts during 2009.

bride's father, the groom, and the best man; but someone married a long time, someone married a few years, and someone recently married.

The service is free, of course, but tickets for the meal priced at just £7 each (or £10 per couple) need to be bought in advance. Ring or email the Vicarage to book or to find out more.

February 17th is Ash Wednesday

ASH Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the period of the Church's year that prepares for the great feast of the Resurrection, Easter.

At services at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm we will reflect on how to prepare ourselves, and as part of this we are offered the opportunity to receive the 'imposition of ashes' - a simple sign of the cross on the forehead marked in ash made from burning last year's palm crosses.

Farewell to our Bishop

THE Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Dr Anthony Russell, is to retire on 28 February.

Bishop Russell, who announced his retirement last April after 10 years in the post, is one of the Church of England's longest-serving bishops and was installed as the 68th Bishop of Ely in 2000.

He was ordained in 1970 and first served as a curate in west Norfolk, and before his Ely appointment was Area Bishop of Dorchester for 12 Years.

Bishop Russell was also Chaplain to the Queen from 1983 until 1988 and has been closely involved with Cambridge University, serving as the Visitor of St John's College, Jesus College and Peterhouse.

A farewell service was held in January at Ely Cathedral.

A successor to Bishop Russell is expected to be announced later in the year.



Sunday Services this month:

Sunday 7th February—2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
6.30 pm United Service

Sunday 14th February—Sunday next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
6.30 pm *A Celebration of Christian Marriage*

Sunday 21st February—Lent 1

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
6.30 pm Service at Chesterton Methodists

Sunday 28th February—Lent 2

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am **Family Service**
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Morning prayer daily at 8.00 am (Saturdays 9am)
Midweek Communion: Weds at 10.00 am

Vicar: Reverend Stephen Bowring
St George's Vicarage Chesterfield Road CB4 1LN
01223 423374

Shirley School

THE Fayre held at the Shirley Community Primary School just before Christmas raised £1,621 for the Parent Teacher Working Party funds.

The eagerly anticipated new building in Nuffield Road is now well under way, and will include accommodation for all the children, but in December the whole school came together from both the

lower and the upper sites for a school carol service in church, at which our new curate Rev Hannah Hobday presided.

Following Christmas productions at the school, £306.58 was raised on both school sites which has been given to the Children's Ward at Addenbrooke's hospital. A further £82 was collected at the school for the Poppy Appeal.

Farewell to Enid

'CHALLENGE' is very sad to report the death of one of its editorial team, Enid Palmer, who died on 28 December last from cancer. Enid lived at The Beeches, off Woodhead Drive, and had typed all the news items on computer for the past six years until last September when she underwent a serious operation at Addenbrooke's hospital.

Don Flory, the newspaper's News Editor, said: "Enid was a lovely lady, very conscientious and never failed each month to do the very best she could for the publication. We shall miss her very much."

Enid was also a member of the St George's Lunch Club and was a committed voluntary worker with CamMind for many years, as well as helping at the Cambridge Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Club in Hawthorn Way.

Clean-up area

A SMALL area of land, which at the moment is covered with trees and shrubs on the corner of Woodhead Drive and Milton Road, is expected to be improved and landscaped during the coming year by the City Council.

The unsightly state of the land has been raised by a nearby resident of Milton Road, Ina Flory, who contacted Councillor Mike Pitt (King's Hedges) to ask if the area could be tidied up and perhaps be converted into a small community park.

At a recent North Area Committee meeting Councillor Pitt proposed that the site be included in a list of 'environmental improvement projects' to be reviewed shortly.

The next public North Area Committee meeting will be held at the Manor Community College on Thursday 4 March from 6.30 pm onwards.

St Andrew's



Scaffolding surrounding St Andrew's Church during recent refurbishments of the spire and tower.

MANY Chesterton residents may have noticed that the tower and spire of St Andrew's Church, Old Chesterton have been shrouded in scaffolding for some weeks before Christmas.

During this time considerable work has been carried out to replace the eroded stonework, to re-point and protect against damp ingress, and to rebuild parts that were in danger of falling off.

Damp areas have also been treated inside the church, and rotten flooring has been replaced.

The Revd Nick Moir, Vicar of St Andrew's, commented: "The weather vane now has a head, and the tail feathers restored and will soon be re-established to the perch!"

The cost of the restoration is likely to be in the region of £126,000.



New classrooms being completed at the Shirley Community Primary School, Nuffield Road under an £8 million building scheme, which will eventually allow the junior and infant sections to share one site. The new school, being built by Morgan Ashurst of Sawston, is planned to be fully opened by March next year - weather permitting!

St. GEORGE'S HALL USERS

Mondays:

PLAYLANDERS PLAYGROUP: 9 am-2.45pm

Mrs. Susan Lister: 420954

SLIMMING WORLD: 6 pm

Contact Louise Palmer Tel. 01223 292823

Tuesdays:

KETTLE CLUB: 10.30-12 noon

(1st Tuesday of the month)

OVER SIXTIES CLUB: 1.45-4 pm

(2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)

Anne Baker: 423367

LUNCH CLUB

(3rd Tuesday of the month)

Arthur Clapp: 500220

RAINBOWS & BROWNIES: 5-7 pm

Ruth Broadway 01480 830870

HATHA YOGA: 7.45-9.15 pm.

Sue Pocock: 366588

Wednesdays:

PLAYLANDERS PLAYGROUP: 9 am-2.45pm

Thursdays:

PRAM PUSHERS: 10-11.30 am

Patricia Abrey: 425915 or Elizabeth Newman: 424993

Fridays:

PLAYLANDERS PLAYGROUP: 9 am-1pm

Saturdays:

CHESTERTON BALLET SCHOOL:

9.30 am-3.30 pm

Sue Pocock: 366588

For occasional hall bookings, ring the Vicarage
(01223) 423374

Group offers help on family history

THE Cambridge Family History Society continues to meet at the Arbury Court Library on the second Friday of each month for anyone interested in researching their family history.

The Society is able to bring records to the library including parish records and censuses, and even if ancestors do not come from the Cambridge area it may be able to help.

The next meeting at the library is on Friday 12 February, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm. Just come along, no appointment is necessary.

The society usually meets again in the evening of the same day at St Laurence's Church Hall, Milton Road for talks by well known speakers on family and local history.

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"I don't mind if I do..."

This little youngster, Alex Taylor, didn't want to be left out from the lovely eats at a recent St George's Prampusher's party in the Church Hall.

Prampushers meet every Thursday morning in term times.

Former College Head dies

MANY tributes have been paid to the former school head Tony Newell, who died on Christmas Eve after a five year battle with peripheral neuropathy. He was 76.

Mr Newell, who lived in Stapleford, spent 19 years from 1974 as Principal of Chesterton Community College, Gilbert Road, where he made many changes to the curriculum including introducing Latin, German and French.

On his arrival at Gilbert Road he had the task of turning the two separate boy and girl secondary schools into one fully comprehensive college.

Trees stay safe

THE five Christmas trees which were placed at the Arbury Court over the festive season for over four weeks, together with lights which were turned on by the Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor Russ McPherson on 8 December, were left undisturbed throughout this time.

Alan Soer, Chairman of the King's Hedges Neighbourhood Partnership, who arranged the event, told 'Challenge': "We had over 500 people attending the occasion when the Mayor turned the lights on, and its fantastic news for the local community that the lights and trees were not harmed in the court in any way."

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

JANUARY 18th-25th each year is observed by churches as a week of prayer for Christian unity, and the North Cambridge Council of Churches held a number of services and events to mark the week this year.

Members of St Andrew's and St George's C of E churches joined Chesterton Methodist for their annual covenant service; and all the churches of the council met on the Tuesday evening at St Laurence's RC church in Milton Road for a short

service followed by fellowship and a meeting of the council.

On Sunday 24th a united service was well-attended at St Andrew's, on a theme of "Close Encounters."

At the Council meeting plans were shared for forthcoming events, together and separately in our congregations. The new NCCC website was unveiled, which may get its own domain name soon but can be found now at www.nccc.coastline.org.uk

Vivian Blades

READERS who have been interested in the recent appeal in 'Challenge' from Australia asking if anyone remembered a Vivian Blades (nee Duncan) who lived in Shirley Grove before emigrating to the country in 1960, will be saddened with the news from her parish priest, Fr

John Davenport, that Vivian died on 16 December last.

Vivian, who had been very ill for some months, contacted 'Challenge' through Fr Davenport to ask if anyone remembered her when she lived in the parish - she was baptised in St George's Church in 1942.

Chesterton Festival "Open Evening"

A REMINDER that the Chesterton Festival 2010 steering committee is to hold a special Open Social Evening at St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Road on Thursday, 4th February at 7.30pm.

At this meeting the committee will launch and announce arrangements for the summer festival which is to be held over three days, Friday to Sunday, 25-27 June.

The steering committee hope all community groups and organisations in Chesterton will attend the meeting and decide to take part in the Festival in the summer.

During the meeting the annual Lil Speed trophy will be presented to the person who has been judged to have made a significant contribution to Chesterton's community.

The next Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday, 13 February at 1.30pm. Jumble can be left in the church porch from Monday, 8 February but no furniture or electrical goods can be accepted.

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Christmas cheer!

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St George's Clubs

IN SPITE of the very cold weather of recent weeks St George's groups continue to meet in the church hall.

On Tuesday, 2 February the Kettle Club meet at 10.30am for coffee, tea and biscuits and also a nice little raffle.

The Over 60's Club meet on Tuesday, 9 February when Margaret Callingham will speak about her work as a pharmacist, followed on Tuesday, 23 February when John Woodhouse will interest members when he talks about 'My life as Mayor of Cambridge'. Both meetings begin at 1.45pm.

The Lunch Club meet on Shrove Tuesday, 16 February at 12.30pm when members will look forward to another splendid lunch.

As usual members are asked to contact Arthur Clapp on 500220 if they are unable to attend.

Choral Society

FOLLOWING Chesterton Choral Society's very successful Christmas Concert on 7 December last, when the choir performed sections from the first three cantatas of Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio', as well as other seasonal music, carols and readings, the Society is to perform a Spring Concert on Monday, 29 March at Chesterton Methodist Church.

Living Project

WALKING is a great way to keep active and healthy and the King's Hedges Living Project is continuing to organise local walks for all.

The next walk is on Thursday, 25 February beginning at the Arbury Road Community Centre at 11am. There is a quiz on route to test the walkers powers of observation ending at the Buchanan Street Neighbourhood Centre in time for lunch.

Walks are also continuing from the Nuffield Road Medical Centre every Thursday morning at 11am, following a short route through parts of East Chesterton.

KHNP

KING'S Hedges Neighbourhood Partnership will be holding another First Aid course on

Saturday, 13 March at the Arbury Community Centre from 9.30am - 4.30pm

This course is an Emergency First Aid at Work course and is appropriate for anyone that wants to act as an appointed person in the workplace or wanting a basic level of knowledge for the home.

The cost of the course is £5 for King's Hedges residents and £7.50 for those living outside King's Hedges. This includes a First Aid book, certificate and refreshments (you need to bring your own lunch). For further details or to book your place contact Marie Cassidy on 508197 or call into 37 Lawrence Way.

The annual Easter Egg hunt will take place on Wednesday 7 April from 10.30-11.30am at 37 Lawrence Way Community House. Come along for Easter crafts, face painting, raffle and of course the egg hunt! There is no charge for this event but you do need to book in advance as it is always very popular and places are limited.

Law for all

ANYONE needing legal advice with disputes concerning children, divorce, property, and domestic violence, etc can obtain help from 'Law for All', a

group of community solicitors who hold surgeries at the North Cambridge Children's Centre (part of the Arbury Community Centre complex), Campkin Road on Friday mornings.

The group will also advise on related matters of housing, benefits and debts. Just drop in between 9.30am-12.30pm for free friendly advice and support.

Sunshine Group

THE Sunshine Group for the over 55's continues its winter programme at the Brown's Field Community Centre on two February Monday afternoons between 1.30-3.30pm.

On 8 February the group meets for bingo, followed on 22 February by a ploughman's lunch and ballroom dancing.

Grovebury Ladies

THE Grovebury Ladies Club meets this month as follows: 2 - 'Cambridge Pentacle', magician; 9 - Auction for club funds; 16 - Line dancing; 23 - Patchwork Circus, Eddie the juggler. The Grovebury Ladies meet every Tuesday at the Arbury Community Centre at 8pm.

Arbury TG

THE Arbury Townswomen's Guild will meet at the Arbury Community

Centre on Thursday, 18 February at 2.30pm for an interesting afternoon gathering entitled 'Snap out of it!'

Local History

THE Chesterton Local History Group meet at St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Road on Tuesday, 16 February at 2.30pm, when members of the Group's committee will speak about 'Apprenticeship and Careers'. All welcome.

Kings Hedges Eat & Meet

THE next 'Eat and Meet' gathering for those who run and head schools, local organisations and churches in the King's Hedges area will be on Tuesday, 2 March at the North Arbury Chapel, Cameron Road at 12 noon.

Local councillors and police also attend this meeting.

East Chesterton Eat & Meet

LEADERS of local Chesterton organisations and churches will be gathering for another Information Exchange session at Brown's Field Community Centre on Tuesday, 2 March at 11.30am. After lunch members of the Chesterton Under-5's Forum will meet at 1pm.

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